

NSC review(s) completed.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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ITEM 3

Memorandum on Public Statements with Respect to
Certain American Weapons

Summary: This report is submitted by Panel D in response to a directive of the Board. It submits the report in the form of a memorandum for the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council forwarding a letter, for the President's signature, to the departmental heads with a memorandum enclosure setting forth the basic cautions with respect to public statements on certain American weapons.

Tab C has been reviewed by the Staff and appears to lack a certain degree of definitiveness--affirmative guidance. In its present form it appears to be an "empty capsule." The difficulty in enumerating a series of "do's" and "don'ts" is understandable, and the Panel reports its exclusion of such a list. Nonetheless, a more affirmative definitive tone could be set forth in Tab C which could be basically considered guidance. If, however, the Board believes that this paper will serve as a restraining instrument upon our officials with respect to public utterances on this subject, then, the intent, rather than the guidance purposes for which it is drafted, may well be served.

The Panel concludes that existing procedures are adequate and new clearance machinery is not required; however, the committee is to remain subject to the call of the chairman for periodic revision of this guidance.

Recommendation: Inasmuch as the intent of this item is to place restraint upon statements by public officials with respect to this subject, rather than furnish covering guidance, it is recommended that you approve the memorandum to the Executive Secretary of the NSC with its enclosures.

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